
**WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REPORT
2021**

2021-22 Campus Theme Passage – (Ephesians 4:2-3, NIV)
This passage builds on last year's theme verse (Exodus 16:4-6) as we transition from a year like no other, reflecting on God's just-right provisions during a season of walking in the desert, trusting in God's provision for our uncharted journey. Now, the college is moving into a season of reforming our community around our Mission, Vision, and Values, extending trust to one another while still trusting in God's faithfulness. Our Ephesians passage invites us to live a collective life of humility, gentleness, patience, and love. All this while striving for a form of unity only the Holy Spirit can frame. Here are some reflections on the verses: Verse 2a – "be completely humble and gentle" – It starts with a personal check. Ask: "How's my attitude? In what areas am I not humble and gentle?" Verse 2b – "bear one another in love" – Then, after your personal check, reflect on your relationships with others. Ask: "How are my relationships? Where in my relationships is there a lack of love? Where do I need to extend greater patience?" Verse 3 – "Keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" – Finally, as you adjust your personal and relational realities, strive to live in perfect unity - the unity that is a fragile gift from the Holy Spirit. Ask, "Do I experience unity and peace with God and with others?" May the bond of peace become more prevalent in our midst as we commit to this Spirit-led journey together.

Vision 2025 & "2+2" Programs – Vision 2025 represents Hesston College's current and future plans of programmatic innovation. This includes the expansion of four of our current 2-year programs, adding a "+2" option for pursuing a bachelor's in Nursing, Aviation, Management, and Engineering. This "2+2" program implementation led to the hiring of Johann Reimer, who is serving as the director to develop the school of Engineering's planned bachelor's degree program, slated to launch next fall. A four-year degree in Management is launching this fall. Meanwhile, junior and senior students continue their studies in Nursing and Aviation, with the first four-year professional pilot degrees awarded this past spring 2021.

Strategic Plan & Campus Master Plan – Flowing from Vision 2025 is our Strategic Plan – the means by which we work toward and realize Vision 2025. This process includes the cooperation and collaboration of faculty and staff from across the campus. As we move forward in this process, a significant component in implementation relates to a new Campus Master Plan, the development of which is already well underway.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) – We have maintained our renewed focus of DEI, setting it as one of our annual priorities as we engage our strategic plan. The work of DEI continues to evolve as students, faculty, and staff are coming together in formalized groups to listen, learn, and create institutional systems that align with our mission, vision, and values.

COVID-19 Learnings and Moving Forward – Virtual meetings have proven to provide flexibility. Moving forward, more of our internal meetings will take place in this way including at least one of our three annual Board meetings, especially the winter meeting in February. More online courses will continue to be developed, especially with our international students in mind. Harnessing and utilizing digital channels and resources in general (for admissions, advertising, communications, etc.) has picked up over the last year and will continue. We are also seeking and will likely soon higher a new position for media services, which would provide robust A/V and livestream support for campus activities. We are not requiring that faculty, staff, or students be vaccinated. However, those who are not vaccinated are required to wear a mask. A survey reflects that almost 80% of our employees are vaccinated. All employees and students will eventually be required to submit a copy of their vaccination card to the college. For this fall, students are required to inform the college whether they have been vaccinated, and this is a talking point encouraged among dorming roommates. Should cases rise among dorming students, they are required to quarantine at their own expense if they have not been vaccinated.

**Western District Conference
of Mennonite Church USA Connections**

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